

Appl. No. 10/030,319
Amdt. dated March 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed December 3, 2004. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the elements of claims 3 and 10, respectively, which have subsequently been canceled. Claim 14 has been similarly amended. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to correct minor errors. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended for clarity. New claims 21 and 22 have been added to round out the potential scope of protection. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rohrl et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,211,776, in view of Flick, U.S. Patent No. 6,188,326, and further in view of Kubler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,525,648. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 10, respectively, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to independent claim 1 (and thus claims 2, 4-7, 15 and 18 depending therefrom) and independent claim 8 (and hence claims 9, 11-13, 16 and 19 depending therefrom).

With respect to independent claim 14 (and claims 17 and 20 depending therefrom), Applicants have amended the claim to require that the vehicle passenger compartment include a first area where a request signal is output and a second, smaller, area where a transponder driving radio wave is output. None of the references describe or suggest this feature, as acknowledged by the Examiner's admission of the allowability of claims 3 and 10, which recite this same limitation.

Thus, the reference has been rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

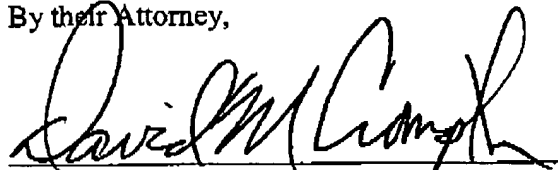
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Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,



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